

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent
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Congressman Dent fights for program funding through fiscally responsible budget moves

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) helped pass a budget resolution that provides for America's priorities using sound fiscal practices. In particular, Congressman Dent lauded an agreement to increase budget allocations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) Allocation for the 2007 budget, and assure at least level funding for key programs that serve residents of the 15th District.

Under an agreement passed Wednesday, Congress would increase funding of critical education and health accounts by almost \$7.16 billion more the President's budget request. Congress has already shifted more than \$4.1 billion from Defense and Foreign Operations to the Labor/HHS/Education Allocation.

"We have agreed to find the other \$3.1 billion elsewhere in this budget," Congressman Dent said. Toward that end, Congressman Dent and Congressman Curt Weldon (R-PA) co-sponsored an amendment that would transfer \$1 billion in un-obligated funds designated for the war in Iraq into the LHHS allocation.

"We need to rein in spending, and we can do that through good fiscal policy," Congressman Dent said. "Fiscal discipline is managing the budget wisely. I always remember that this is not the government's money we're spending. It's the people's money."

Appropriations Chairman Jerry Lewis (R-CA) has agreed that LHHS allocations will be funded at a minimum \$141.9 billion, which is \$843 million above the enacted FY06 amount. Additionally, Chairman Lewis has agreed to accept no less than level funding of the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Grant Program, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants, and the President's Competitiveness Initiative, which increases investments in research and development of science and technology, strengthens education and encourages entrepreneurship.

"CDBG and COPS, in particular, have been very effective programs in the communities of the 15th District," Congressman Dent said. "They are good investments of the people's money."

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